

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:462

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006

UNITED NATIONS REPORT ON DRUG ADDICTION .

Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a report of the United Nations released recently has pointed out that drug addiction among youths in the North-Eastern States in India is a cause of concern;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The action taken to curb drug addiction among youths in the North-Eastern States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The report indicates that since the 1970s, the pattern of drug use amongst local youth in North-Eastern States has changed from age-old tradition of cannabis and opium use to heroin smoking, followed by injecting heroin and that many young males and females begin drug use by directly injecting as opposed to the traditional route which involved non-injecting. Gradually emphasis is shifting from heroin to synthetic drugs like dextropropoxyphene taken through injections.

(c) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and substance (Drug) Abuse wherein non-governmental organisations are provided financial support for awareness programmes, counseling, treatment, after care and rehabilitation services in varied settings such as the community, workplace, educational institutions, prisons, etc. Presently, 46 de-addiction centres and 8 counseling centres are functioning in the North East for this purpose.